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18th April 2016

The Agriculture and Environment Committee Hendra Vaccine Inquiry
c/o Mr Rob Hansen
Parliament House
Brisbane
Queensland 4000
Phone: 07 3553 6660
By email: robert.hansen@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Hansen,

RE: Veterinarian Submission to Hendra virus Vaccine Inquiry

My name is Christine Smith and I own an equine veterinary practice in the Hawkesbury Valley, NSW. I currently employ nine equine veterinarians. I have been in equine veterinary practice for over 20 years. I wish to address the following Terms of Reference in the Qld Parliament's Hendra virus Vaccine Inquiry:

- The incidence and impact of adverse reactions by horses following vaccination and the reporting of adverse reactions and economic impacts of the Hendra vaccine.
- The development, trials and approval processes of the vaccine
- Who bears the risks of HeV infection and who incurs the costs and receives the benefits from each risk mitigation option.

Our practice has vaccinated approximately 1244 horses since the vaccine became available. Only a handful of clients have reported any adverse reactions and all of them have been minor. No horses have required hospitalization for a reaction. In my opinion our practice sees a comparable number of vaccine reactions associated with other commercially vaccines such as Tetanus and Strangles.

The vaccine appears to be safe and the scientific evidence strongly supports it being efficacious and reliable. Given the risk to human life that Hendra virus poses, the vaccine offers the horse industry the most effective means of disease prevention for all humans who have contact with horses. Our practice attends many large equestrian events and recommends that all horses be vaccinated before attending.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Smith DVM Dip ACVS – Registered Specialist in Equine Surgery